



By the King.

A Proclamation for the setting of the Letter
Office of England and Scotland.



Hereas to this time there hath beene no certaine or constant enter-
course betweene the Kingdomes of England and Scotland, His Maiesy
hath beene graciously pleased, to command his seruant Thomas
Witherings Esquire, His Maiesies Post-master of England for forraigne
parts, to settle a running Post, or two, to run night and day betweene
Edenburgh in Scotland, and the City of London; to goe thither, and come
backe againe in sixe dayes, and to take with them all such Letters as
shall be directed to any Post-towne, or any place neere any Post-towne
in the said Roade, which Letters to bee left at the Post-house, or some other house, as the said
Thomas Witherings shall thinke conuenient: And By-Posts to be placed at severall places out of
the said Roade, to run and bring in, and carry out of the said Roades the Letters from Lincolne,
Hull, and other places, as there shall be occasion, and answers to bee brought againe accordingly;
And to pay Post for the carrying and recarrying of the said Letters, two pence the single
Letter, if vnder fourescore miles; And betweene fourescore, and one hundred and fourty Miles,
Fourre pence; If aboue a hundred and fourty Miles, then Sixe pence; and vpon the borders of
Scotland, and in Scotland, Eight pence: If there be two, three, fourre, or five Letters in one Packet,
or more, Then to pay according to the bignesse of the said Packet, after the rate as before; Which
money for Post as before, is to be paid vpon the receiving and delivery of the said Letters here
in London.

The like rule His Maiesie is pleased to order the said Thomas Witherings to obserue to
Westchester, Holyhead, and from thence to Ireland, according to a prouision made by the Lord De-
putie and Councill there; and to take Post betwixt the City of London and Holyhead, as before to
the Northward; and to goe thither, and bring answers backe to the City of London, from all
the places in that Roade in sixe dayes, which is constantly hereafter to be obserued; and to settle
By-posts in the said Roade, as there shall bee occasion, for the benefit of all His Maiesies louing
Subjects.

His Maiesie is pleased further to command the said Thomas Witherings, to obserue the
like rule from the City of London to Plymouth, and to prouide sufficient messengers to run night
and day to Plymouth, and to returne within sixe dayes to the City of London, and for carriage of the

said Letters to Plymouth, Exeter, and other places in that Roade, His Maiestie doth order the said Thomas Witherings, to take the like Post that now is paid as neare as possibly he can.

And further, His Maiestie doth Command and Order the said Thomas Witherings, so soone as possibly may be, to settle the like conueyance for Letters from Oxon, Bristol, and other places on that Roade, for the benefit of all His Subiects; And the like the said Thomas Witherings is to obserue with all conuenient speed to Colchester, and so to Norwich, and diuers other places in that Roade.

The three first conueiances from London to Edinburgh, from London to Westchester and Holyhead in Wales, and from London to Plymouth and Exeter, are to begin the first week after Michaelmas next.

Now for the better enabling the said Thomas Witherings to go forward with this seruice, and for the aduancement of all His Maiesties Subiects in their trade and correspondence; His Maiestie doth hereby Command and Order all his Post-Masters vpon all the Roades of England, To haue ready in their Stables one or two horses, according as the said Thomas Witherings shall haue occasion to vse them, to carry such Messengers with their portmantles, as shall be employed in the said seruice, to such Stage or place as his present occasions shall direct him to: If the said Messenger shall haue occasion but for one horse, then to leau him at the place where he shall take fresh horse, payng for him Two pence halfe pence for every Mile; If two horses, then to take a Guide, and pay Five pence a Mile.

And that the said Post-masters may be prouided for this seruice, His Maiestie doth hereby Order and Command, that such horses as shall be prouided for the said seruice, shall not vpon that day the Messenger shall be expected, let, or send forth the said horses so prouided, vpon any other occasion whatsoeuer.

And His Maiesties further Will and pleasure is, that from the beginning of this seruice or imployment, no other Messenger or Messengers, Foot-post or Foot-posts, shall take vp, carry, receiu, or deliver any Letter or Letters whatsoeuer, other then the Messengers appointed by the said Thomas Witherings to any such place or places as the said Thomas Witherings shall settle the conueiances, as aforesaid. Except common known Carriers, or a particular Messenger, to be sent of purpose with a Letter by any man for his owne occasions, or a Letter by a friend. And if any Post, Messenger, or Letter-Carryer whatsoeuer, shall offend contrary to this His Maiesties Proclamation; His Maiestie vpon complaint thereof made, will cause a severer exemplary punishment to be inflicted vpon such delinquents.

And His Maiestie doth hereby strictly require and Command all his louing Subiects whatsoeuer, duly to obserue and performe His Royall pleasure herein declared, as they will answere the contrary at their perils.

And lastly, His Maiestie doth hereby charge and command all Justices of Peace, Maitrs, Sherffes, Baillifses, Constables, Headboroughs, and all other His Officers and Ministers whatsoeuer, to be aiding and assisting to the said Thomas Witherings, in the due accomplishment of this His Maiesties Will and pleasure.

Giuen at Our Court at Bagshot, the last day of July, in the eleuenth yeere of Our Reigne. 1635.

God sauе the King.

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